



## **The Guardian of Public Health**

Michigan Department of Community Health

May 12, 2006

## **Preparedness and Planning**

### **Ardent Sentry**

North American Aerospace Defense Command and United States Northern Command is conducting one of their premier exercises, called Ardent Sentry, between May 8 and 18. Ardent Sentry is a bilateral exercise that involves numerous federal, provincial, state and local agencies in both Canada and the United States. The exercise will focus primarily on defense support of civil authorities, but will contain elements of the Homeland Defense mission as well.

The primary objective of the exercise is to give federal, provincial, state and local authorities the opportunity to work together across a full spectrum of training opportunities to better prepare participants to respond to national crises. The exercise will stress consequence management for a range of man-made and natural disasters.

Ardent Sentry exercise events are taking place in the states of Colorado, Michigan, Florida, New Mexico, and Arizona and the provinces of Ontario and New Brunswick and adjacent waters. Military units will also be conducting field training at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Michigan; Tyndall AFB, Florida; and Playas, New Mexico.

### **Michigan Pandemic Influenza Summit**

Last winter HHS Secretary Michael Leavitt planned a series of in-state summits to address pandemic preparedness. On April 25, 2006, the Michigan Pandemic Influenza Summit was held at the Renaissance Center in Detroit. Business leaders, educators, health care providers, faith-based organizations and volunteer agencies were invited to attend. Those in attendance were encouraged to get involved in pandemic preparedness. The press release can be viewed at: [http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-8347-141780--M\\_2006\\_4,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-8347-141780--M_2006_4,00.html)

### **National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza**

The White House has recently released the National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza. This document presents our nation's approach to address the threat of pandemic influenza, whether it results from the strain currently in birds in Asia or another influenza virus. It outlines how we as a nation intend to prepare, detect, and respond to a pandemic. It also outlines the important roles to be played by the Federal government, State/local governments, private industry, international partners, and individual citizens. To view the entire document please visit: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/homeland/nspi.pdf>.

### **Hurricane Katrina: A Nation Still Unprepared**

On May 2, 2006, the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs approved a newly completed Committee report, "Hurricane Katrina: A Nation still Unprepared." The report includes a narrative, findings, and recommendations from the Committee's seven-month investigation into the Hurricane Katrina disaster of 2005. At the heart of the report are findings that focus on failures at all levels of government to plan, prepare and execute timely, and effective mitigation and relief efforts for the Hurricane Katrina disaster; and recommendations that include abolishing the Federal Emergency Management Agency and replacing it with a new National Preparedness and Response Authority. For more information on this report please visit: <http://hsgac.senate.gov/index.cfm?Fuseaction=Links.Katrina>.

### **Management of Dead Bodies After Disasters: A Field Manual for First Responders**

Management of the dead is one of the most difficult aspects of disaster response. It has profound and long-lasting consequences for survivors and communities. Globally, disasters claim thousands of lives each year. However, care of the deceased is often overlooked in disaster planning and the absence of guidance for first responders has recently been highlighted following several large disasters. This *Field Manual for First Responders* presents simple recommendations for non-specialists to manage the recovery, basic identification, storage and disposal of the dead following disasters. It also makes suggestions about providing support to family members and communicating with the public and the media.

This manual will be useful during the immediate response to a disaster and where forensic response is unavailable. Furthermore, it will be useful for those preparing mass fatality disaster plans. The recommendations are relevant for local, regional and national authorities as well as for non-governmental organizations. The principles outlined in this document are being implemented and promoted by a variety of organizations, including the Pan American Health Organization, the World Health Organization, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. To view this manual please visit: <http://www.paho.org/english/dd/ped/DeadBodiesFieldManual.htm>.

### **Division of Global Migration and Quarantine Expands Quarantine Station Network**

DGMQ has more than doubled its field staff, from 28 to 58 as of November 1, 2005. Quarantine stations are up and running in Anchorage, Alaska; Boston, Massachusetts; Detroit, Michigan; El Paso and Houston, Texas; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Newark, New Jersey; San Diego, California; San Juan, Puerto Rico; Washington, D.C. and other sites. Sites for new stations were identified on the basis of volume of international traffic in both passengers and cargo, as well as the point of origin of that traffic, with emphasis on areas of the world where emerging infections are likely to originate. This expansion includes three stations for which land border crossings comprise the majority of international entries: El Paso, San Diego, and Detroit.

The field staff has been augmented by quarantine medical officers, who provide clinical, epidemiological, and programmatic support; and quarantine public health officers, who conduct surveillance and response and communicable disease prevention activities. The transformed quarantine stations bring new expertise to bridge gaps in public health and clinical practice,

emergency services, and response management. Improved communications networks enable passengers to be notified promptly of potential exposures to infectious diseases. These expanded services are being integrated into bioterrorism and emergency preparation and response plans. The CDC quarantine stations will go beyond evaluating ill passengers to encompass a wide range of responses to infectious disease threats, whether intentional—as in the case of bioterrorism—or related to imported emerging pathogens and pandemic preparedness. For more information visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dq/>

#### **DHS Names Lead Federal Officials for the 2006 Storm Season**

The Department of Homeland Security announced the designation of five teams that will coordinate the Federal government's role in support of state and local governments in preparing for, and responding to, major natural disasters this storm season. In total, 27 Federal officials have been appointed. To view the press release please visit: <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=5552>.

#### **Strategies for Mitigating an Influenza Pandemic**

The National Institute of General Medical Sciences funded research on influenza prevention and containment strategies. The online letter called, Strategies for Mitigating an Influenza Pandemic was posted in April 2006. The authors designed and implemented a mathematical model to investigate intervention options for a large-scale epidemic in the United States and Great Britain. They found the following: "...border restrictions and/or internal travel restrictions are unlikely to delay spread by more than 2–3 weeks unless more than 99% effective. School closure during the peak of a pandemic can reduce peak attack rates by up to 40%, but has little impact on overall attack rates, whereas case isolation or household quarantine could have a significant impact, if feasible. Treatment of clinical cases can reduce transmission, but only if antivirals are given within a day of symptoms starting. Given enough drugs for 50% of the population, household-based prophylaxis coupled with reactive school closure could reduce clinical attack rates by 40–50%. More widespread prophylaxis would be even more logistically challenging but might reduce attack rates by over 75%." To view the online version of the paper visit: <http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/vaop/ncurrent/pdf/nature04795.pdf>.

#### **HHS Buys Additional AVA Anthrax Vaccine**

In a May 5, 2006 press release the Department of Health and Human Services announced the purchase of 5 million additional doses of Anthrax Vaccine Adsorbed (AVA), a licensed anthrax vaccine, from the BioPort Corporation of Lansing, Michigan. The purchase agreement is funded under Project BioShield, a program intended to accelerate the development, purchase and availability of medical countermeasures for biological, chemical, radiological and nuclear threats. To read the press release please visit: <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2006pres/20060505a.html>

## **Chemical Terrorism Unit**

#### **Congratulations Erik Janus**

Erik Janus received the Michigan Environmental Health Association (MEHA) 2006 Distinguished Service Award – Non-Member. Erik received the special recognition award for his contributions to environmental health. Erik has made significant efforts with local public

health departments, related to chemical terrorism, emergency preparedness, and also with methamphetamine lab issues. Congratulations Erik.

## **Health Alert Network**

### **Michigan Health Alert Networks Welcomes New Members**

There have been many new partners added to the Michigan Health Alert Network (MIHAN) in the last year; Rural Health Clinics; Federally Qualified Health Clinics; and Life Support agencies. Last fall a partnership with the Long Term Care Community was formed with involvement of the Health Care Association of Michigan. Each of the 432 facilities across the state were contacted and asked to participate in MIHAN.

The enrollment of the new participants began in February. A month and a half later almost 70% of the facilities were registered users on the system. Approximately 60% of these new members have set up their accounts so that they can receive and respond to alerts. This new group of participants has been integrated into the role groups of each county across the State of Michigan.

## **Risk Communication**

### **MDCH Updates Influenza Web Page**

Have you seen the recently updated MDCH Influenza website? It contains information on seasonal influenza, avian influenza, and pandemic influenza. Please check us out by visiting: [www.Michigan.gov/flu](http://www.Michigan.gov/flu)

### **Michigan Avian Influenza Brochure**

MDCH has just released an avian influenza (AI) brochure with input from the multi-agency state work group including the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Michigan Department of Agriculture, MSU Diagnostic Center for Population & Animal Health, and MSU Extension. Each local health department will be given 500 brochures at the Communicable Disease conferences in May. OPHP has 1,500 additional copies. The avian influenza brochure has been posted on the MDCH Emerging Diseases homepage. The AI brochure is an 11x17" document (PDF) that folds, and as such a portion of the text will appear upside-down on your screen. To download please visit: <http://www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases/0,1607,7-186-38757---,00.html>

### **Preparing for a Public Health Emergency Booklets**

On April 21, Ann Maher, Hospital BT Coordinator in Region 2S, sent one e-mail to 546 planning partners, announcing the availability of the 'Preparing for a Public Health Emergency' booklets. Within four working days OPHP shipped over 36,000 booklets. The requests came from hospitals, schools, GM, banks, fire departments, police departments, EMS, universities and Detroit Metro Airport. An electronic version is available online. Please visit: [www.michigan.gov/ophp](http://www.michigan.gov/ophp) click on public information, then on 'Preparing for a Public Health Emergency'.

### **Government Sends Out Ads to Ease Bird Flu Worries**

Hoping to prevent a scare over deadly bird flu, the government is distributing television and radio commercials assuring people that chicken is safe to eat. To learn more please visit: [http://www.adn.com/news/alaska/ap\\_alaska/story/7692491p-7603685c.html](http://www.adn.com/news/alaska/ap_alaska/story/7692491p-7603685c.html).

## **Training and Education**

### **The Response Phase of a Chemical Emergency Event A Focus on Environmental Health**

The MDCH Chemical Terrorism and Emergencies Section in partnership with the University of Michigan is offering the course, “The Response Phase of a Chemical Emergency Event – A Focus on Environmental Health”. This one-day course will provide training to environmental health and other public health professionals in responding to chemical emergencies caused by natural or man-made disasters. The topics covered will include real life examples of the environmental health role in a chemical emergency, public health’s interaction with HazMat, worker protection, clearance testing, and hands-on computer training in the use of tools for public health response. The course is offered in two locations, August 7 in Gaylord and August 9 in Lansing. The intended audience includes environmental health directors, administrators, supervisors and sanitarians in local and state public health departments; other public health professionals including health officers, nurses, epidemiologists, emergency planning coordinators, public information officers; and other emergency planners and responders. Continuing education credits will be available. There is no charge for the course. More information and registration can be found at [www.mipreparedness.org](http://www.mipreparedness.org). Questions about the course can be directed to Sue Manente, (517) 335-9003 or [manentes@michigan.gov](mailto:manentes@michigan.gov).

### **Centers for Public Health Resource Center**

The CDC provides funding for the Centers for Public Health Preparedness (CPHP) program, a network of fifty-two (52) universities and college programs contributing to readiness through preparedness education and training. All-hazards preparedness educational products for training are available to all Project Areas through the CPHP. Products include case-studies, archived video web casts, course modules and general educational materials. These materials are available to Project Areas through the CPHP Resource Center at: <http://www.asph.org/acphp/phprc.cfm>.

### **2006 National Summit on Pandemic Disease and Avian Influenza**

In order to assist the public and private sectors prepare for a potential pandemic, The Performance Institute is hosting *The 2006 National Summit on Pandemic Disease & Avian Influenza*, July 31 – August 2 in Arlington, Virginia. This conference integrates the concerns of first responders and public health with the difficulties faced by governmental and private agencies to tackle this potentially devastating problem. For more information on this training please visit: <http://www.performancweb.org/CENTERS/LE/Events/L217/L217.htm>.

## Regional News

### **Region 6 Volunteers Gain Unique Experience, Accept Unique Responsibilities**

Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) leaders in Region 6 are taking both local and national “calls to action” to heart and are challenging local volunteers to a two-fold mission.

While each of the four MRC groups continues to actively recruit health and support professionals in Kent, Newaygo, Montcalm and Muskegon counties for traditional response roles, they are reminding them that U.S. Surgeon General Richard H. Carmona is challenging communities in other ways, too.

Specifically, Carmona’s national call to improve public health preparedness has given local MRC volunteers the chance to use their medical training and skills to help strengthen the local public health infrastructure in their communities. Volunteers can help staff diabetes detection screenings, exercise programs or work toward government initiatives like “Steps to a Healthier US.” MRC members should see themselves as ambassadors who work in their own communities and support programs like flu shot clinics, health fairs and trade shows, and provide interpretation and translation services.

In early 2006, dozens of volunteers from across West Michigan completed basic MRC orientation sessions and basic volunteer training. In Kent County the “charter” MRC volunteer group also completed a series of Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training sessions that total 32 additional classroom hours.

Among the CERT training highlights for volunteers was the chance to blend classroom sessions with more a hands-on exercise, as they worked with 18 volunteer victims, the Kent County Sheriff’s Department Emergency Management office and the Grand Rapids Fire Department. MRC volunteers demonstrated their ability to work under stressful conditions, as firefighters used smoke machines and live fire to lend a realistic scene from which the “bruised and bloodied” volunteers emerged.

Classroom sessions included topics like Introduction to Disaster Preparedness (American Red Cross certification included), Fire Suppression, Medical Triage, and Search and Rescue. Local MRC leaders say the cooperation with the Red Cross, Emergency Management and CERT trainers will continue, offering West Michigan volunteers unique education and training opportunities.

### **Region 5 Team Attending the Homeland Security Department’s Noble Training Center Healthcare Leadership Course in June**

The United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) through the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Emergency Management Institute (EMI) offers the Healthcare Leadership Course. The course is conducted at the Noble Training Center (NTC) in Anniston, Alabama.

This 4-day exercise based training course provides a realistic setting in which expert instructors assist healthcare professionals develop appropriate decisions in response to a Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) event. The Region 5 team will learn by doing, through the use of functionally realistic and technically correct scenario-based exercises.

Exercises will be supported by challenging and dynamic discussions and background presentations that are current, with constantly evolving standards, protocols, and procedures. The Region 5 team will consist of 71 people representing 16 hospitals, 6 local health departments, 7 Medical Control Authorities (w/ representatives from 9 EMS agencies), an American Red Cross chapter, and the region's MSP/EMD coordinator. Participants will be assigned to functional areas for function-specific training and exercise activities. These functional areas include:

- Hospital Executive Group
- Patient Services Group
- Emergency Department Group
- Physical Plant / Safety / Security Operations Group
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Group
- Public Health Group

The Healthcare Leadership Course is most often presented to individuals attending from all over the United States, but the Noble Training Center encourages regional and local contingents to organize groups for course offerings in an effort to assist in the development of a team response to emergencies. The importance of a multidisciplinary team response to emergency events was reinforced in Region 5 during last September's Fort Custer / Hurricane Katrina evacuee operation.

Region 5 leaders recognize the Noble Training Center's program as a way to build upon the success of the Fort Custer/Katrina operation and further develop the region's Healthcare Response Team approach to mass-casualty / disaster response. We intend to incorporate usage of MI-HAN, EMSysystem's EMResource, and possibly E-Team in the course exercises and apply material covered and exercised during the course to the Region 5 implementation of the Modular Emergency Medical System (MEMS).

## **Other News**

### **WHO Guidelines for Humanitarian Agencies**

The World Health Organization has released a document containing guiding principles to help humanitarian agencies help refugee and displaced populations should a influenza pandemic occur. This document provides background information on pandemic influenza, describes WHO pandemic phases, describes strategies for dealing with each phase, and outlines preparedness activities needed during the pre-pandemic period. To view or download the guidance please visit: [http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian\\_influenza/guidelines/avian2006-04-9.pdf](http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/guidelines/avian2006-04-9.pdf).



### **Agreement gives HHS access to passenger data**

The Department of Health and Human Services has quietly made an agreement with the Homeland Security Department to share personal information about airline passengers in an effort to deal with a potential pandemic. To read the article please visit:

<http://govhealthit.com/article94159-04-24-06-Print>.

### **Influenza Pandemic Simulation Reveals Challenges in Delivering Essential Services**

A simulated influenza pandemic conducted by the World Economic Forum and Booz Allen Hamilton found that a widespread outbreak of avian flu would severely challenge governments and the private sector to manage essential services, limit the spread of the pandemic and communicate essential information. To view the press release please visit:

[http://www.boozallen.com/home/about/article\\_news-ideas/2912247?lpid=66005](http://www.boozallen.com/home/about/article_news-ideas/2912247?lpid=66005).

### **Vaccine Combined with Antibiotics Protects Monkeys from Inhalational Anthrax**

Anthrax vaccine administered in combination with a short course of antibiotics completely protected nonhuman primates from inhalation anthrax, the most lethal form of the disease, according to scientists at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID).

In a collaborative study involving USAMRIID and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), investigators demonstrated that postexposure vaccination can shorten the duration of antibiotic treatment required to protect against inhalation anthrax. The findings, which appear in the May 2006 online edition of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, could have important implications for public health management of anthrax bioterrorism events. To view the press release please visit:

[http://www.eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2006-05/uamr-vcw050106.php](http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2006-05/uamr-vcw050106.php).

### **Homeland Security Begins Background Checks on Port Workers**

The Department of Homeland Security says it will begin conducting background checks on nearly 400,000 port workers in the United States. The background checks will be an initial measure as the department rolls out a nationwide biometric-based Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) in 2006. To view this article please visit:

<http://hr.blr.com/display.cfm/id/18189>.